



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



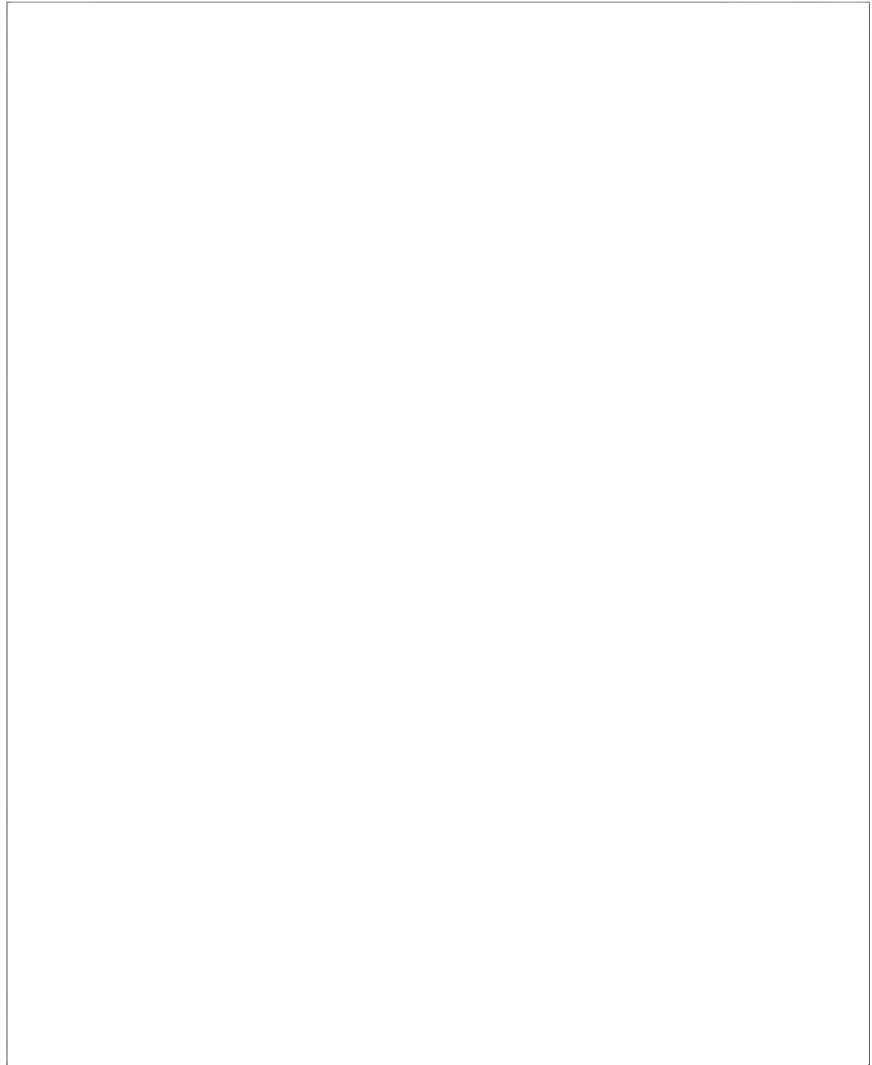
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14 SEPTEMBER 1966

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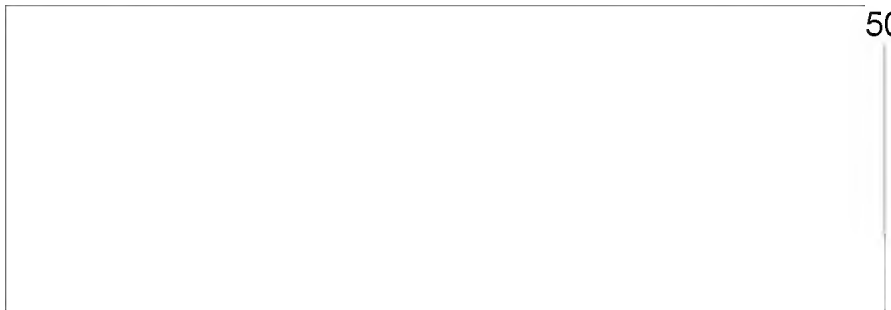
DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam



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2. South Vietnam



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3. Communist China

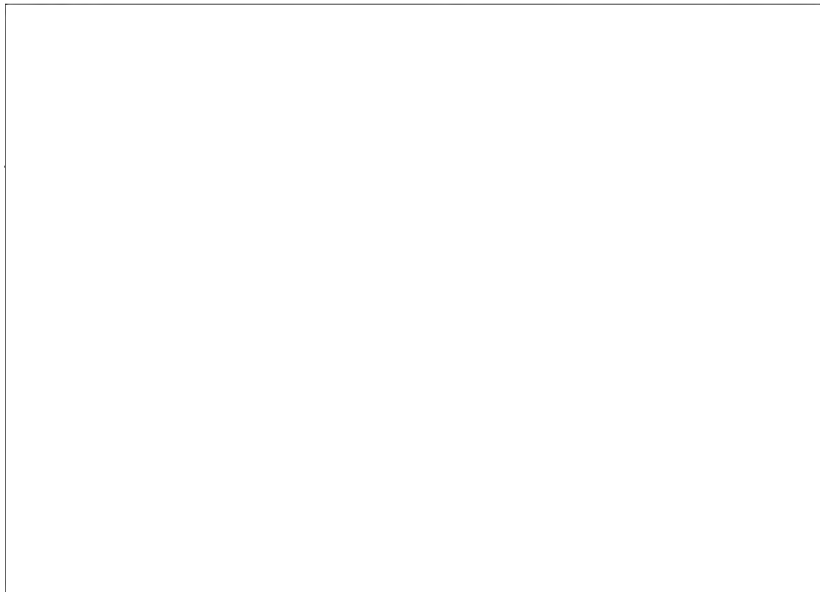
At Annex today we are discussing the difficulties encountered by foreign diplomats in Peking. The life these diplomats lead--isolated, harassed, and constantly watched--is illustrative of China's xenophobia.

4. Thailand

Tensions between Thailand and Cambodia are easing up a bit. Both sides are beginning to make sounds in favor of resuming diplomatic relations, which were broken off by Cambodia in 1961.

5. France

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6. French Somaliland

The unrest over French rule which erupted during De Gaulle's visit late last month is now described as being "much worse." There were new outbreaks both yesterday and today.

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7. Commonwealth

Officials in London are touting Lester Pearson as "the man of the Commonwealth Conference." They say he has done a first-rate job trying to find some common ground between the Africans and the others. He has been able to use his prestige with the Africans to talk forcefully to them about what is and is not practical.

The conference itself grinds on until tomorrow.

8. South Africa

The Cape Town embassy's initial comment on Balthazar Vorster as successor to Prime Minister Verwoerd is not quite as dismal as those carried by the New York Times and the Washington Post this morning. The embassy notes that the new man is not personally committed to Verwoerd's series of anti-American provocations and that his record suggests he may be a good deal more approachable than his predecessor was.

However, the embassy also points out that Vorster's ruthlessness in his final drive for power raises a number of questions about his integrity or judgement or both.

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ANNEX

Peking: Diplomatic Hardship Post

Surrounded by a maddening web of isolation, surveillance, and harassment, the foreign diplomatic corps in Peking is essentially a community of the blind.

All Communist countries restrict the activities of foreign missions, but none do so with the thoroughness and determination of the Chinese, who have succeeded in preventing all but the most superficial observations of China.

Diplomatic travel normally is limited to a radius of 18 miles around Peking, although an occasional "tour" to other parts of China is organized by the foreign ministry. These junkets are as carefully supervised as a girls' school outing to an art gallery and the diplomats are surrounded by swarms of "guides" from the security service.

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Most foreign embassies have been crammed into one small section of the city--a diplomatic ghetto where the eyes of the regime can be more easily focused and where diplomats can be isolated from the populace.

Isolation and surveillance are accompanied by studied neglect and open harassment. With native ingenuity, the Chinese have made life almost unbearable for diplomats from that growing list of nations whose relations with Peking are less than cordial.

Take, for instance, the Yugoslav and Indian representatives, who are often summoned to the foreign ministry in the middle of the night to handle

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routine business. Then there is Mr. Jongejans, the Dutch chargé who has been declared persona non grata but whom the Chinese are keeping a virtual prisoner in his own legation building.

When it comes to comparing tales of harassment, Soviet diplomats can hold their own with any group in Peking. Late last month after two days of Red Guard demonstrations outside the Soviet Embassy, the chargé got into his car to see off a visiting dignitary--only to find the street deliberately blocked. He never made it to the airport.

There is little prospect for improvement while Mao and company remain in power. Foreign ambassadors will continue to be tolerated only because Peking wants its own representatives abroad.

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